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Thursday, December 6, 2012

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Crib figurines depicting Britain's Prince William and his pregnant wife Kate are displayed in a shop of Via San Gregorio Armeno, Naples on December 5, 2012. Nativity scenes craftsmen sculpted the crib figurines after the announcement on December 3 that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, both 30, are expecting their first child -- a new royal heir. (AFP PHOTO)



Caya Betico Croes is looking fresh and ready for the holidays

Finishing touches are being put on the work of art that will be Oranjestad's renovated main street, the Caya Gilberto Franco's "Betico" Croes. Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Infrastructure, Immigration and Environment, Benny Sevinger, stopped by on Tuesday afternoon, November 4 to compliment the Ghansham Mahtani and family for their personal efforts to beautify and upgrade what has always been Aruba's traditional place to shop.

The Mahtani's had opened the immensely popular Calypso Boutique back in the 1970s. It was a favorite place for quality home items and fashion for decades. Over the past few years it has been home to Modern Electronics, which will soon be expanded when renovations to the building are completed. Shop owner Michael Moolchand confirmed his confidence in the fact that the street will be a major attraction when finished.

"We want to remind holiday shoppers that the streets are quite accessible now," announced Prime Eman. "As anyone can see, many are taking advantage of the paved pedestrian walk to do some window shopping and enjoy the new landscaping. We are particularly thankful to the



Mahtanis and Minister discuss wheelchair access



Ghansham Mahtani and Family

Mahtani's for their demonstration and support of the main street makeover, and their con-

tribution to making a showcase to attract visitors to town."

Continued on page 2

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MIDNIGHT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Caya Betico Croes is looking fresh...

Continued from page 1



Michael Moolchand of Modern Electronics has faith in the main st project

The new tram line is not yet running, but the main walk is nearly completed, and shops are easily accessible.

They are well stocked with holiday gift items and fashion, and will continue the tradition of offering special entertainment and bargains every Saturday in December until Christmas.

Modern Electronics will share the renewed Calypso building with a fashionable XOXO store, adding more excellent shopping choices to Aruba's renovated main street.

Rosalie Klein



'Young Quicksilver' has passed



All those familiar with Calypso music on Aruba, would know or have heard of "Young Quicksilver."

Dave Hodge, better known as 'Young Quicksilver' was very popular on the island in the 60's, 70's. He was known for his humor as well as his calypsos such as 'The Village Burning Down' and 'Strongman' for which he was crowned Calypso King



in 1970. Besides being one of the main characters in San Nicolas Carnival 'Young Quicksilver was also known to be a boxer in the early years.

Dave Hodge has lived abroad for many years, but yet

Aruba was sad yesterday to learn of the passing of Dave Hodge.

Condolences to the family and friends of Dave Hodge.

May the late 'Young Quicksilver' rest in peace

Government intent on creating special fund to benefit citizens

ORANJESTAD -- Prior to the signing of the contract for the seismological exploration in our territorial waters, the different important actors in the negotiations made several remarks and explained what the contract actually entails. President of Parliament, Paul Croes explained the role that Parliament had in the process, and wished the company much success and hope that they will succeed in finding what we all want...oil and gas reserves in the subsoil of Aruba's territorial waters!

The Prime Minister remarked that..."this will be a development which could have an enormous impact on the future social economic development of Aruba."

In many countries around the world where large mineral reserves have been discovered,

the results of this never get translated to the benefit of the community. The Aruba government is intent on ensuring that our citizens reap the benefits of any eventual income from such a find. They have done a research on what has been the practice in Norway. Norway is one of the countries where the money gained from explorations does not go into the government's coffers. They created a fund and the interest gen-

erated from this fund goes to the budget of the country. But, the income from the fund goes to create a great future for the inhabitants of the country. Aruba intends to go that same route.

Eman said that he may be gone before that time, but that the plan for such an action must be in place. We want to create responsible funds to ensure that this will become a blessing and not a curse for our island.

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Special launching of Stella Artois on Aruba this Friday night at Hard Rock Café

Island media gave a thumb's up to Stella Artois Lager, which will be formally launched on Aruba this coming Friday evening, November 7, with a great night of music, dancing and beer tasting at Hard Rock Café.

Hard Rock Marketing Manager Sharmaine Tromp introduced Franklin Oduber of Playa Trading, which are the agents for Stella Artois on Aruba. The Belgian lager, which has been popular in Europe since the 1920s, has found an enthusiastic market for its distinctive taste in the U.S., and will now be widely available on Aruba. Originally brewed only for the holiday market, it was so in demand, particularly in Canada, that the brewery in Leuven began producing and distributing in all year round.

Hard Rock is celebrating adding Stella Artois to their beverage menu with an exciting night of live music from popular local bands Datapanik and Nutzbeatz. Band leaders Michael Lampe and Eldrick Boekhoudt were on hand to personally invite one and all to



Franklin Oduber, Michael Lampe, Eldrick Boekhoudt and Sharmaine Tromp

join them for fun night at the Palm Beach club in South Beach Center.

Entrance for the evening is only 9 Aruban florins, (\$5.) which will include the first bottle of Stella Artois. The Belgian brew will be offered at a specially discounted price throughout the night. The event begins at 9:00 PM and will last until the wee hours.

Rosalie Klein



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The simple gesture of giving back, will brighten up Christmas this year

Aruba Bank's year-end campaign is dedicated to a good cause



The excitement of the holidays is in the air in Aruba, and the celebratory atmosphere is almost palatable everywhere you go. In honor of the upcoming season-of-giving Aruba Bank made a decision to create a fund-raising drive dedicated to a good cause, supporting those in our community with lesser resources.

The simple act of lending a helping hand to a less fortunate human being always results in a great sense of satisfaction, and lights up the season for the giver and receiver. Over the next days, up until December 17th, each branch of the Aruba Bank will have a special basket on display into which donations can be dropped. The donations of Awg 25, up to Awg 75 will be used to create Hol-

iday Baskets for the needy. Each basket will have a value of Awg 150, and will contain various useful and seasonal items. Aruba Bank will be awarding the baskets to members of our community of lesser means, in collaboration with its clients. As the campaign winds to an end on December 17th, the bank pledges to double the amount collected.

The Aruba Bank Holiday Campaign is a perfect opportunity to light up the holidays for our brothers and sisters, in the true spirit of Christmas. Aruba Bank is calling on the community to participate and show its solidarity and compassion, its empathy and generosity, making the end of the year merrier and more prosperous for each and every member of our population.

At the Palm Beach Plaza Mall

Artist Marian Abath is December's Caribbean Queen

Palm Beach – The Caribbean Queen at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall has been honoring one local female artist who lives and creates here, every month. The Caribbean Queen program was launched since the store opened in late December, 2011. For the store's first anniversary, for the month of December

2012, local glass artist Marian Abath is Caribbean Queen, prominently displaying her beautiful and bold artwork in the store.

The glass objects made by



Marian Abath find their roots in her love for nature. The colors of Aruba are reflected in the glass paper-weights she creates, as well as in her jewelry. Marian works with dif-



ferent internationally acclaimed glass techniques such as fusing, kiln casting, glass blowing and flame working. "I love working with the torch", she explains, "as it allows me to dedicate time, concentrating on my own thoughts and my own hands creating what I like."

Marian was not born on Aruba, but she has been living here for the past 15 years and it is here where her passion for

glass art started. Marian came to the island as an educational scientist, a role she still plays work-

ing as a policy-maker at the Department of Education. Fortunately, her marriage to local artist Ciro Abath opened new opportunities for her, opportunities which she seized with both hands, she says, assisting him in his artwork, applying different techniques, and slowly

discovering her own preferred materials and ideas.

Marian then traveled to specialize in flame working and glass blowing in Istanbul, Turkey, New York and the Netherlands. She participated in Voorop, given by the famed Rietveld Art Academy and took classes in silver smiting, in order to finalize her glass pieces into jewelry.

Continue on pg 5



Artist Marian Abath is Dec. Caribbean Queen

Continued from pg 4

She participated in art exhibitions on Aruba as well as abroad, however she prefers to label herself as an artisan instead of an artist. "In jewelry," she explains, "the message is optional. An object can just be beautiful on its own, distinguished by its color or the kind of material used. Each piece is unique and has a story of its own".

In 2008 Marian and her husband Ciro launched Terrafuse - Aruba Glass & Ceramics, a foundation designed to promote the art of glass and ceramics on the island of Aruba. A couple of years before that, they opened the first glass studio here. Nowadays, Marian teaches bead-making workshops to beginners and advanced bead-makers twice a week and the studio is open for visitors during those hours.

She also teaches local youth, between the ages of 14 and 25, an initiative supported by Terrafuse foundation and the Aruban government (UNOCA), keeping the price of the workshops low, aiming to teach the art form, yet also broaden students' horizons, letting them find out what they can do with their hands.

"Even after teaching the beginners' workshop 100 times, I don't get bored," Marian states, "as it is a privilege to open the world of glass to people. It makes people proud of themselves and their accomplishments at making their own unique glass creations."

The Marian Abath collection at Caribbean Queen includes colorful jewelry and art objects. Her work will be on display for the whole month of December. Everyone is invited to stop by the Caribbean Queen, on the first floor of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, to browse and perhaps even make a purchase, as it is the season of giving.

A percentage of the each purchase is earmarked for an art-supporting charity on the island, such as The Pancake Gallery, Atelier 89 and The Aruba International Arts Foundation, AIAF, under the store's Repair of the World, Tikkun Olam program.

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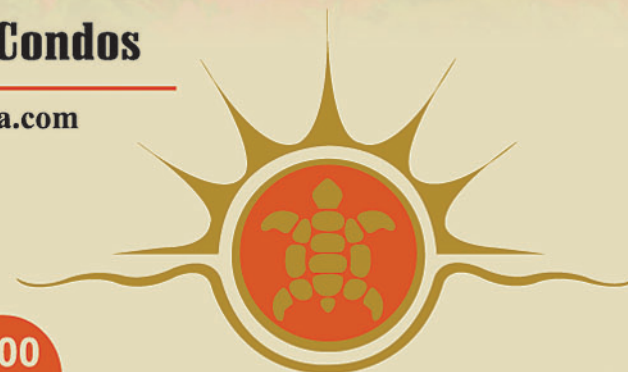
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Research concludes Aruba has 2225 drug addicts!

ORANJESTAD -- After a very long and intensive process, the University of Aruba and the Ministry of Public Health, with the support of the Fondo di Desaroyo, began the "nultmeting" phase consisting of four phases. Phases I and II were presented, and phase III and IV were the investigative report on drug addiction on Aruba.

The report reveals that there are currently 2225 drug addicts on Aruba! It also indicated that there are 150 addicts without a place to live. There are also figures for the amount of women and men addicts.

The government reported that it is the first time in the history of Aruba that we have centers for women and men for the treatment of drug addiction. The research indicates which barrios are intolerable, and Oranjestad ranks as first. The second infested barrio is San Nicolas. Noord is third and Santa Cruz the fourth barrio.

Another important information coming out of the research is that more than 70% of our addicts come from families with addiction problems. This is a vicious circle in families.

It shows how and in which direction the government must adapt its treatment program in order to be more effective.

The government reported that all addicts in rehabilitation are required to follow courses. At KIA (local prison) there are 48 cells reserved for addicts under custody. They are also planning to expand what is being done at the Seroe Colorado center. There is also the digital registration system which registers every addict and what treatment they are getting.

Prevention must be the core

of our work and is the source for stopping the growth of addiction, according to the Minister of Public Health. The newly presented book, "Paga Tino" is on its way to all schools, and in January that program will be implemented. Based on the research just completed, all instances will get together and reevaluate all systems in place. They will be able to actualize the infrastructure and the professionals to deal with the problem of addiction on Aruba in the most effective manner possible.



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Key US ports back to work after strike ends

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Two key US ports reopened yesterday after negotiators brokered a deal to end an eight-day strike which crippled a key trade gateway with Asia.

Thousands of dock workers were back at their jobs after the agreement struck late Tuesday, between employers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and striking clerical workers.

LA mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced the deal, offering a six-year contract to 800 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), and workers were expected to ratify it during the day.

During the strike some 20 ships bound for LA or Long Beach docked at other ports, officials said.

By yesterday midday all eight cargo terminals at the LA port and six at Long Beach, just to the south, were again operational. Some 10,000 ILWU members honored the picket call, shutting down 10 of the 14 terminals at the complex.

The National Retail Federation, which had urged President Barack Obama to intervene, hailed the agreement. NRF boss Matthew Shay said he hoped the retail

industry would "be able to quickly recover from the shutdown."

The striking workers said they had been without contracts since June 2010, and argued over whether or not the employers could outsource the jobs of union workers who retired or left for other employment.

The action at the key US transport gateway, which handles 40 percent of US maritime cargo, mainly from Asia, and constitutes the world's seventh-biggest commercial harbor, cost billions of dollars to the local and wider US economy.

Union officials said they had succeeded in winning new protections to prevent jobs from being outsourced.

"This was a community effort that will benefit working families for many years to come," said John Fageaux, president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 63-OCU.

Stephen Berry, chief negotiator for the Harbor Employers Association, said: "Both sides had principles that are very important to them."

"The employers have struggled since the global economic crisis in 2008. Cargo volumes have dropped and they've not returned to those levels."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cocaine-laden 'narcosub' sinks in Panama, one dead

SAN JOSE (AFP) - One person was killed and three arrested when a semi-submersible craft loaded with cocaine sank off the coast of Panama while being chased by the Costa Rican Coast Guard, officials said Wednesday.

Costa Rica anti-drug commissioner Mauricio Boraschi said that 66 packages of cocaine, each weighing about one kilo, came to the surface after the craft went down in deep water near the Panama-Costa Rica border.

Experts believe that some 4,000 kilos (8,818 pounds) of

cocaine went to the bottom of the ocean with the vessel sank, he said.

One suspect -- the man believed to have pulled the plug to let the craft sink -- was dead when the Coast Guard arrived, Boraschi said.

The Costa Rican Coast Guard was tipped off about the semi-submersible by a US plane on an anti-drug overflight, and chased the craft into Panamanian waters.

"When we arrived to rescue a US ship arrived and then a Panamanian airplane ... to pro-

vide help, and the suspects surrendered along with their products," Boraschi said.

Custom-built semi-submersible crafts, often built out of fiberglass and equipped with electric-diesel engines, are commonly used by drug cartels to smuggle cocaine from labs in South America to staging points in central America, and then to be smuggled into the United States via Mexico.

The typical "narco-sub" operates largely underwater, with just the cockpit and exhaust pipes above surface.

Egypt top cleric calls for restraint amid intense unrest

CAIRO (AFP) - Sunni Islam's highest authority yesterday called for restraint and dialogue as violent clashes raged in Cairo between rival camps in Egypt's latest political crisis.

Al-Azhar Grand Imam Ahmed al-Tayyeb urged "all Egyptians of all persuasions to exercise restraint and to recourse to peaceful and civilised dialogue," the state-run MENA news agency reported.

"The situation is deplorable. It's a disaster," he added speaking on state television, calling on "opposition and government supporters to put an end to the crisis."

"I call on the children of my country to save Egypt," he said.

The crisis was sparked by a presidential decree on November 22 granting Morsi sweeping new powers and was exacerbated by a controversial draft constitution, objected to by opponents, which is set for a referendum on December 15.

Opponents want the draft charter and the presidential decree withdrawn, and have protested in their tens of thousands against Morsi and his Islamist supporters.

Egypt's health ministry said late on Wednesday that at least 211 people had been injured in clashes between Morsi's secular-leaning opponents and Islamist supporters, as riot police attempted to break up the violence.

274 dead, hundreds missing in Philippines typhoon



Monte Vista : A worker surveys destroyed banana trees at a plantation in Monte Vista town, Compostela Valley province on December 5, 2012, a day after Typhoon Bopha hit the province. The death toll from a typhoon that ravaged the Philippines jumped to 274 Wednesday with hundreds more missing, as rescuers battled to reach areas cut off by floods and mudslides. About 178,000 people remained huddled in evacuation centres, mostly crowded schoolhouses, gyms and other government buildings, officials said. (AFP PHOTO)

US aware of Pres. Assad asylum offers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it was aware of informal offers of asylum to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad by countries in the Middle East and elsewhere.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner gave no details, referring reporters to others governments after being asked about speculation that the Syrian president was weighing asylum offers from Latin America.

"We do understand that some countries, both in the region and elsewhere, have offered to host Assad and his family should he choose to leave Syria," Toner said.

The asylum speculation stems from a recent trip to Cuba by Syria's deputy foreign minister, Fayssal Mekdad, who delivered a message from Assad to Cuban President Raul Castro, according to the official Cuban Prensa Latina news agency.

The Syrian official also was reported to have traveled to Venezuela, Nicaragua and Ecuador, whose leftist governments have close relations with Havana.

Tunisia's president offered Assad asylum as recently as March, and US officials told lawmakers a year ago that Arab leaders were privately telling Washington that had offered Assad asylum if he would step down.

But the latest rumors come amid intensifying fighting in the suburbs of Damascus, and US warnings to Syria not to use chemical weapons against its own people.

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International News

Ships collide off Dutch coast, one sinking: Dutch media

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch sea rescue services launched a major operation Wednesday to save 24 sailors after their ship sank following a collision with another in a busy North Sea shipping lane, a coast guard spokesman said.

"Three helicopters are on the scene as well as two rescue ships and a number of other craft to pick up 24 crew members of the Baltic Ace," Peter Verburg of the Dutch coast guard told AFP.

He said the crew launched life rafts after the 23,000-tonne Bahaman-registered Baltic Ace, a car carrier, and the Cypriot-registered Corvus J, a container ship, collided around 7:15 pm (1815 GMT) about 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Rotterdam and 65 kilometres off the southern Dutch coast.

It was unknown if there were any injuries.

The Baltic Ace was under way from Zeebrugge in Belgium to Kotka in Finland and the Corvus J from Grangemouth in Scotland to Antwerp in Belgium, according to shipping tracker website Marine-Traffic.com.

"At this stage we don't know what caused the accident," Verburg said, adding: "Our first priority right now is the safety of the 24 crew members."

The shipping lane where the accident happened is one of the busiest in the North Sea and an important passing point for ships sailing into the Rotterdam port, Europe's largest and the fifth-largest in the world, Dutch media reported.

Rotterdam port spokesman Sjaak Poppe told AFP the collision would not affect shipping in and out of the port.

BBC commentator charged for indecently assaulting children

LONDON (AFP) - British prosecutors said Wednesday they were bringing charges against veteran BBC commentator Stuart Hall, saying he indecently assaulted children in the 1970s and 1980s.

The 82-year-old, a former presenter of game show "It's a Knockout" known for his eccentric and erudite football match summaries on BBC Radio 5 Live, was arrested at his home at Wilmslow near Manchester in northwest England earlier in the day.

"The charges are that between 1 September 1974 and

31 December 1974 he indecently assaulted a woman who was then aged 16 or 17 years," said John Dilworth, the head of the Crown Prosecution Service's north west complex casework unit.

"That between 1 January 1983 and 31 December 1983 he indecently assaulted a girl then aged eight or nine years, and that between 1 July 1984 and 27 September 1984 he indecently assaulted a girl then aged 13 years."

Hall has been bailed to appear at Preston Magistrates Court on January 7.

Hospital reveals pregnant Kate's condition in prank call

LONDON (AFP) - The British hospital treating Prince William's pregnant wife Catherine admitted Wednesday it released her private medical details after falling for a hoax call from an Australian radio station.

Presenters from Sydney's 2Day FM station, posing as Queen Elizabeth II and William's father Prince Charles, got through to a nurse at private King Edward VII's Hospital in London, where Kate is being treated for acute morning sickness.

The hospital confirmed that a nurse discussed Kate's condition and said it "deeply regrets" the incident, while the

Australian radio station also apologised.

The hoax is deeply embarrassing for the hospital, which has also treated the queen, her husband Prince Philip and Charles' wife Camilla over the years. The queen is its patron.

2Day FM presenter Mel Greig, impersonating the 86-year-old monarch, dialled the hospital and asked the operator: "Could I please speak to Kate, please, my grand-daughter."

The operator replied: "Oh yes, just hold on, Ma'am."

Greig was put through to a ward where a nurse told her that Kate was "sleeping at the moment and she has had an

uneventful night".

The nurse added: "She's been given some fluids to rehydrate her because she was quite dehydrated when she came in. But she's stable at the moment."

Greig replied, "Oh well, I'll just feed my little corgis, then," while two of her colleagues made barking noises in an impression of the queen's corgi dogs.

"So, when is a good time to come and visit her?" Greig went on. "Because I'm the queen so I need a lift down there."

The nurse suggested any time after 9:00 am, after Kate had "freshened up".

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Health & Living

Stigma for Central America's HIV-positive kids



Patients hug a nurse at The Center of Excellence for Children with Immunodeficiencies (CENID) at the Benjamin Bloom National Children Hospital in San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (AFP) - Four-year-old Carlos, who makes a lengthy trip every two weeks with his teenage aunt to a special clinic in El Salvador's capital, has no notion of the cruel stigma that comes with his HIV diagnosis.

Governments and aid groups across the region organized a official parades and cultural events to raise awareness and celebrate World AIDS Day.

But in Central America, HIV and AIDS patients carry a burden that is heavier than the medical consequences of the virus that still has no cure.

Carlos's aunt, just 16 years old herself, washes and irons clothes to support the pair ever since her sister died of AIDS a year ago. Neither her parents nor Carlos's other grandparents give them any financial help.

"I would like to go to school or have a formal job," the teenager said, "but there is nobody else to take care of him and I can't think about abandoning him."

Tears streaming down her face, she explained that the preschool in their village refused to enroll Carlos because of his HIV status. Carlos is a pseudonym as the family pre-

ferred he remain anonymous.

More than 3,000 children are infected with HIV in Central America, according to official statistics. Most of them, some 2,180, are in Honduras, but El Salvador is second, with 580 HIV-positive kids.

Carlos, a cheerful and active boy, is luckier than many. His twice-monthly visits to the Center of Excellence for Children with Immunodeficiency in San Salvador net him life-saving antiretroviral drugs as well as other important medical care.

It is the only clinic of its kind in the country, and Carlos and his aunt have to travel 135 kilometers (84 miles) to get there.

With its staff of three doctors and three nurses, it dispenses state-sponsored medical care and drugs to children up to age 18, at no cost. The kids also get psychological counseling, paid for by a private foundation.

The center serves some children from Guatemala and Nicaragua as well.

As Carlos waited for his treatment on a recent visit, he got a checkup from a dentist.

Cartoons of children

covered the walls, an attempt to warm up the austere environment of the clinic full of HIV-positive kids.

In another cubicle, a 52-year-old woman held an eight-month-old baby with big black eyes who was entertaining herself with some rubber animals as she waited. Older kids waiting nearby were playing on the center's computers.

Like many HIV-positive kids, this baby was here with her grandmother.

"I bring the girl to the hospital, my daughter cannot. She already developed AIDS, and is only 18 years old," the woman told AFP shakily. "My life has changed with pain since I learned that the two are ill."

She works at various jobs to support everyone.

"Many children come with their grandparents because their parents have died and no other family member will take care of them. It's a travesty," said Sandra Ayala, a social worker at the center.

"Many have suffered contempt or abuse from their own families."

Carlos's young aunt said she sometimes doubts she is up to the challenge of raising her nephew on her own.

But her reward, she said, comes when Carlos gazes at her with his big, innocent eyes and calls her "mama."

"I love him like my son. I'm going to do everything possible to see that he grows and has opportunities," she vowed.

"It hurts to see the discrimination against him. Neither he, or any child, deserves that."



Japan court awards \$13 mn to asbestos victims

TOKYO (AFP) - A Japanese court on Wednesday ordered the government to pay \$13 million to 170 former construction workers and their bereaved families over exposure to asbestos.

The Tokyo District Court however rejected the plaintiffs' claim that private construction materials firms should also be held responsible for the health problems of their workers.

The lawsuit was brought by representatives of 337 people who became ill or died as a result of their exposure to a material used widely as insulation

until the mid-1980s.

The plaintiffs accused the government and 42 companies of failing to take adequate safety measures despite knowing about the dangers associated with the material, which can cause cancer.

"At least by 1981, the government needed to order businesses to require their workers to wear dust-protective masks and set punitive measures for those in violation," presiding judge Masamitsu Shiseki told the court, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Women's groups urge EU ban on prostitution

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Around 200 women's groups urged the European Union to make paying for sex a crime on the grounds that prostitution violated women's rights.

"Prostitution is a form of violence, an obstacle to equality, a violation of human dignity, and of human rights," the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the largest umbrella group of women's rights groups in the 27-nation bloc, said at a conference in the European parliament.

The EWL called on the bloc to seek inspiration from Sweden, which outlawed paying for sex more than a decade ago though prostitution remains legal.

The group said that the number of people exploited in street prostitution had halved since

1999, while it tripled in Denmark and Norway for the same period.

EU states should ban "repressive measures" against people who prostitute themselves but clamp down on "all forms of procuring" and agree "the prohibition of the purchase of a sexual act."

Between 80 and 95 percent of people in prostitution "have suffered some form of violence" before entering the system of prostitution (rape, incest, pedophilia).

The group also said that women constituted 85 percent of the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and cited UN data saying that trafficking in human beings was the second biggest source of illicit profits for criminals after drugs.

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Sci-Tech

Google, Microsoft launch charity efforts



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google and Microsoft each unveiled new charitable initiatives Tuesday, in separate efforts which channel millions of dollars to innovators tackling social ills.

Google launched its Global Impact Awards program with a first round of funding allocating a total of \$23 million to seven organizations "changing the world."

"Technology has dramatically improved our lives, from the speed at which we get things done to how we connect with others," Google director of giving Jacquelline Fuller said in a blog post announcing the awards.

"Yet innovations in medicine, business and communications have far outpaced tech-enabled advances in the nonprofit sector."

Meanwhile, Microsoft held a Social Innovation Summit at which it announced the winners of \$3 million in "Imagine Cup" grants to students with promising projects for the global good.

"The Imagine Cup Grants will help students evolve a great idea for addressing a societal issue into a real-world business," said Dan'l Lewin, corporate vice president of Strategic and Emerging Business Development at Mi-

crosoft.

"These students have developed incredible approaches that show great potential for positive local impact."

A \$100,000 grand prize Imagine Cup grant went to a team from Germany that devised a way to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions by letting each driver know the best route to their destination.

Other grant winners included Australian students with a way to better detect pneumonia and a team from the Ukraine that developed a handheld gadget that translates sign language into verbal communication.

Imagine Cup awards include software and "cloud" computing services for winners.

Google Global Impact awards included \$5 million for Charity Water to install water flow sensors at thousands of points across Africa and \$3 million to use "DNA barcoding" of endangered species to fight illegal wildlife trade.

The World Wildlife Fund was awarded \$5 million for technology to battle poaching. Millions of dollars were also awarded to groups involved with improving math and science education in the United States.



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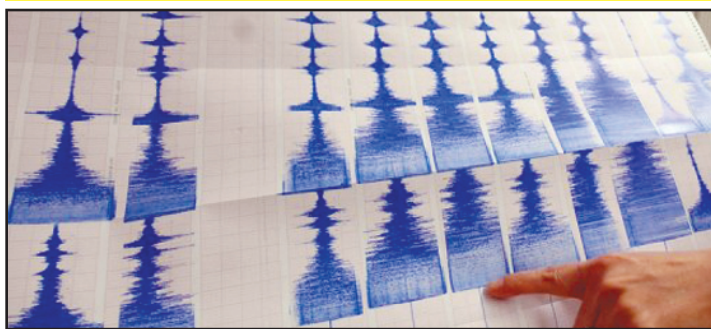
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New map highlights hotspots for mega-quakes



PARIS (AFP) - Seismologists unveiled a map highlighting zones most prone to unleashing the world's biggest earthquakes, including the 9.0 monster that struck northeastern Japan in March 2011.

These mega-quakes spring mostly from regions where fractures on the sea floor intersect with subduction zones, or zones where one slab of Earth's crust is diving slowly under another, they said.

The evidence is statistical, coming from data from 1,500 earthquakes.

Over the past century, half of the 50 largest earthquakes

with a magnitude of 8.4 or more have occurred at these dangerous intersections, the scientists said.

The rate rises to 87 percent for the 15 biggest quakes above 8.6 magnitude, including behemoths that have shaken Chile and Alaska.

Subduction zones are well known for engendering very powerful quakes.

Some regions are notorious, such as the Sunda Trench off Indonesia, which spawned the 9.1-magnitude Indian Ocean quake and tsunami of December 2004.

Others, though, are not

picked up as potential threats, as they only generate powerful earthquakes every few centuries or even millennia.

Such long periods are called "supercycles" and because they last happened so long ago, they are not documented in human history.

The worrisome intersections are points where fractures, caused by the movement of ridges on the ocean floor, cross with a subduction zone at a boundary on Earth's tectonic plates.

Why these meeting points become hotspots is unclear.

One theory is that the complex fractures act as a brake, preventing the slow subduction movement. As a result, the stress accumulates over very long periods until it is released catastrophically.

The new map is published in the journal Solid Earth by the European Geosciences Union (EGU).

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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WHERE'S MY MOUSE?

ACROSS

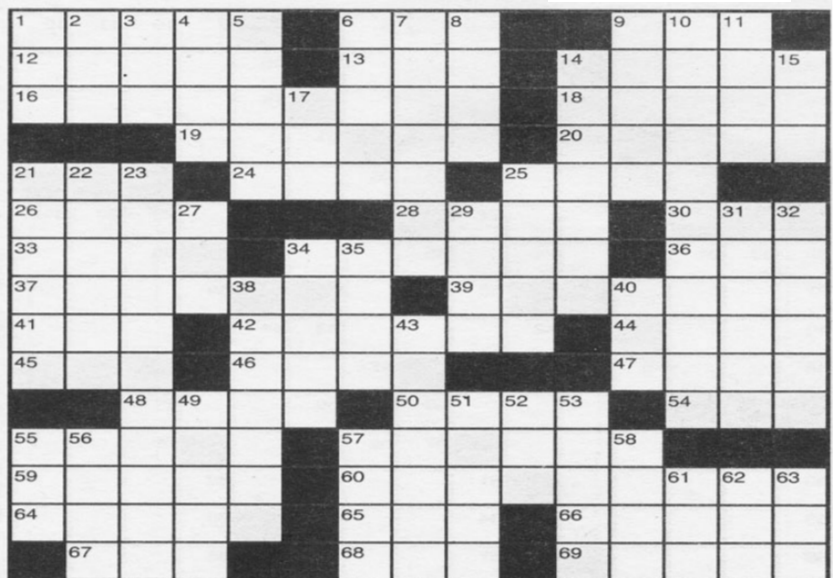
- Swab's shout
- Riotous group
- Part of NOW: abbr.
- Spanish city
- Milit. address
- Get some shuteye
- Press it to back out, on a PC
- Positive quality
- Dick, Pat, Tricia, and Julie
- Floral emblems of Wales
- Field judge
- Kennedy matriarch
- "___ No Mountain High Enough"
- Entrance to a mine
- Old Germanic letter
- Sheepish sound
- Singer Carter
- Enjoy a radio show
- Coffee dispenser
- Put up
- Give one a right (to)
- Shade provider
- Braggart
- Derive (from)
- Milieu of terns and erns
- Majority
- Actress Anderson
- Kitten's bites
- Actress Raines
- ___ Vissi, Greece
- Partake
- School skipper
- Gurus

DOWN

- Pub quaff
- You, to an Argentine
- Eyebrow shape
- Make a computer file of a photo
- South American animal
- Warm-water sharks
- Keys, e.g.
- The Hardy

- Johnson's vaudeville partner
- PC's mechanism for starting anew
- Nerd
- Important
- Two make a qt.
- Outer: prefix
- Indian princesses
- Swimmer Gertrude
- Where it's at, on a PC
- Regarding
- Doter's treatment: abbr.
- Western Indians
- Actress Francis
- Weakness

- Kids' building blocks
- Wedding chapel chorus
- Gale
- Land area: abbr.
- Repeat
- Dancer Castle
- Tempted
- Lass's beau
- "...this land was made for you ___"
- Speedy aircraft
- Spy shot for treason
- "The Mouse ___ Roared"
- Marched
- Gerund part
- Sometimes revealing neckline
- Airport sked letters





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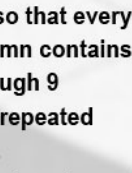
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Sudoku



	3		5			1		
		8				3		5
	2		8		6			
	7			8				6
8				1				4
6				4			2	
			3		7		5	
2		7				9		
		5			2		7	

SOLUTION



1	4	9	2	6	7	5	8	3
5	8	6	8	5	1	4	9	2
8	5	2	4	9	6	7	1	3
6	7	8	5	1	9	2	3	4
4	9	1	6	1	9	2	5	8
9	1	5	8	2	6	4	7	3
4	6	7	9	8	1	2	5	3
5	9	1	2	6	8	7	4	3
2	8	1	4	5	9	6	3	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 12/05/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	193.23
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.03
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.43
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.75
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.19
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	219.02
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				

Finance

Boehner: Obama must step up to resolve fiscal cliff

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republicans warned President Barack Obama on Wednesday that he must take the lead on negotiations over the so-called fiscal cliff and present a solution that could pass both the House and Senate.

Speaker of the House John Boehner told his Republican caucus in a closed-door meeting that Obama "has a responsibility to put forward a plan that can pass both chambers of Congress," an official who attended the meeting said.

The White House and opposition Republicans are struggling to thrash out a deal that avoids a set of crippling tax hikes and across-the-board spending cuts that kick in early next year if the two sides fail to agree on how to reduce America's skyrocketing debt.

Obama presented an initial offer last week, while Republicans led by Boehner presented their counter-offer. Both have been rejected outright -- at least publicly -- by the other side.

Boehner pointed to the Republicans' proposal to raise \$800 billion in new revenues by closing tax loopholes and ending some deductions as a sign they are "ready and eager" to negotiate in good faith.

That's part of the broader \$2.2 trillion Republican package, including \$1.2 trillion sliced from federal spending, with half of that coming directly from Medicare, the federal health program for the elderly.

Boehner insisted that the plan Obama has put forward, which includes \$1.6 trillion in new taxes and just \$600 billion in spending cuts, "couldn't pass either house of the Congress."

Kevin McCarthy, the

House's number three Republican, said he saw an opportunity for Obama to show leadership.

Obama wants to extend tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans but raise rates on the richest two percent. Republicans want to extend all tax cuts for a year, and discuss spending cuts and tax reform to produce more revenues.

The president campaigned for re-election on the basis of raising taxes on the wealthiest, while Republicans, though open to raising more revenue, refuse to do so by raising marginal tax rates.

New Citigroup CEO sets 11,000 job cuts

NEW YORK (AFP) - US banking giant Citigroup's new chief executive on Wednesday announced a cut of four percent of its global workforce, less than two months after a shock board move forced out CEO Vikram Pandit.

Michael Corbat, who took the lead of the mega-bank on October 16, said it would slice more than 11,000 jobs, mostly in its global consumer banking division, and take a \$1 billion charge in the 2012 fourth quarter and another \$100 million in the first half of next year.

Investors welcomed the news: the shares gained 6.5 percent to \$36.50 in early afternoon trade.

Around 6,200 of the job losses will be in the consumer banking division as Citi pushes a strategy of focusing on the 150 cities around the world "that have the highest growth potential in consumer banking."

The actions came seven weeks after Citi veteran Corbat

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US president leads it, of course, and then there's the Pope, and Angela Merkel, and Facebook's founder, and other global rain-

makers on Forbes' ranking of the mightiest earthlings.

But the magazine's 2012 list of the planet's most powerful people also features folks who might raise an eyebrow or two: a Mexican drug baron, and the pudgy-faced young leader of North Korea, a hermit state assailed for pursuing a nuclear program at the expense of feeding its very poor people.

Last year's No. 2 on the list, Chinese President Hu Jintao, is among the heavyweights off the list altogether this time. In Hu's case it is because he's on his way out of office.

The ranking features 71 names, a figure Forbes said it set as a cutoff because there are an estimated 7.1 billion people in the world and thus the ranking works out to one very heavy hitter for every 100 million people.

For the second year in a row, US President Barack Obama led the ranking, with Forbes noting that he won the popular vote, an electoral college majority, and seven of the seven toss-up states in the November election.

Obama faces challenges galore, such as a budget crisis, naggingly high unemployment, and renewed strife in the Middle East.

"But Obama remains the commander in chief of the world's greatest military and head of the sole economic and cultural superpower -- literally

the leader of the free world," Forbes said.

The silver medal of power went to Merkel, the German chancellor, whom Forbes described as the backbone of the 27-member European Union and the person who carries the fate of the euro on her shoulders.

Third place went to Russian President Vladimir Putin. He was re-elected to a third term "after a few years swapping posts with Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev," and "officially regains the power that no one believes he truly gave up."

Forbes said it assembled the list using four criteria: power over lots of people, financial resources controlled, whether the person has power in various spheres of life, and whether that person actively uses their power.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BID	SHED	JADE
IDA	HUGO	OYEN
GOTEAMBO	SEND	
ELKS	HEBIS	
BELLY	SIP	
AXIS	WATCHOUT	
GIN	BARAH	NGO
STEPONIT	DELI	
OCT	PETAL	
CLICK	SEAR	
LOCK	RETAIL	LIFE
AGFF	OMIT	CEE
POST	OURS	KEN

Obama leads Forbes ranking of world's most powerful

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Jazz great Dave Brubeck dies: *manager*

NEW YORK (AFP) - Jazz pianist Dave Brubeck, whose experiments in rhythm and style helped win millions of new jazz fans around the world, died Wednesday of heart failure, his manager said. He was 91.

Brubeck, who was a day away from his 92nd birthday, died in a hospital in Norwalk, Connecticut while on his way to see his cardiologist, manager Russell Gloyd told AFP.

Brubeck won a slew of awards over the course of a career that spanned more than six decades. He was still playing as recently as last year.

Brubeck played at the White House for presidents and visiting dignitaries, and was designated a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress.

Brubeck's 1959 album "Time Out" became the first million-selling jazz record of



the modern era, as songs "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk" defied the indifference of critics to become classics in the genre.

That success cemented his reputation as one of the great popularizers in the history of jazz, after years of nudging the music into mainstream culture by relentlessly performing on university campuses.

Turkey fines TV over Simpsons show for 'mocking God'

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkey's media watchdog has fined a private television channel for broadcasting episodes of the American cartoon series "The Simpsons" that poked fun at God, a local newspaper reported.

The Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTUK) fined CNBC-E around 53,000 lira (22,700 euros) over the show, saying it "mocked God" by depicting him serving Satan a cup of coffee and showing one character encouraging another to commit murder in the name of God, the Hurriyet newspaper said.

RTUK also accused "The Simpsons" of showing scenes in which copies of the bible are

burnt and encouraging young people to consume alcohol.

The decision by RTUK, which has imposed a string of fines over other television series aired in Turkey that were deemed to be insulting to God or historical leaders or offending family values, was ridiculed by Hurriyet columnist Mehmet Yilmaz.

"I wonder what the makers of 'The Simpsons' would say when they hear their jokes are taken literally in a country called 'Turkey'," Yilmaz wrote. "Perhaps Homer will get a Muslim neighbour."

"The Simpsons" is the longest-running American sitcom, with more than 500 episodes aired since 1989.

Sophie Marceau says YouTube endangers film creativity

SINGAPORE (AFP) - French actress Sophie Marceau said Wednesday the growing appetite for content created by new media such as YouTube and cable television posed a threat to creative and original filmmaking.

Speaking at a French film festival news conference in Singapore, the "Braveheart" and James Bond actress said the need to feed popular new media platforms may cause filmmakers to make uninspired and uniform movies.

"The only thing that I'm a little bit afraid of is the uniformity, the standardisation of movies because it's so accessible now," Marceau, 46, said.

"I think cinema should also



sometimes bring new ideas, open people's eyes on certain subjects or realities. A movie is not just a movie, you know," she added.

"Making movies... OK so what? To fill the cable TVs and YouTube? No. I think behind that it should be meaningful, it should be a real point of view from a director, from some-

body who absolutely wants to say something."

Marceau was in Singapore to promote her latest film, the romantic French comedy "Happiness Never Comes Alone."

New media platforms offering video content such as YouTube have seen a surge in popularity in recent years, helped along by the increasing prevalence of tablet computers and smartphones equipped with video-streaming capabilities.

YouTube boasts more than 800 million unique visitors who watch over four billion hours of video each month, its website states. Users also upload 72 hours of video every minute.


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Adventures in eating at the new Rembrandt Café

Rembrandt Café in the South Beach Center has always been known as a bastion of authentic Dutch cuisine, but under new management of the amiable "Happy" Hans, who is thrilled to be realizing his dream with his own place, a new menu is proving exceptionally attractive and affordable.

Our team of Morning News taste testers decided to check out the house specialty, "Old Dutch Gourmet" meal at only \$27.50 per person, and recommend it heartily. It is an exceptional taste treat and something really different.

us their poultry comes from Holland and meat from Argentina, and they are certified free of growth enhancers and other undesirable chemicals.

The difference is notable in the flavor, and the preparation is fun. The meal also includes a choice of soup or salad of the day and dessert of the day; we found the main course with side dishes, was alone more than enough to fill up three hungry people.

Rembrandt has a charming, Old World, Dutch Pub ambience and offers both indoor and outdoor dining on their cozy terrace. The service crew is a delight, and even the wine list is very reasonably priced. Aside from their house special, they offer



A selection of chicken, pork and beef

an attractive menu of a la carte dishes including schnitzel, with an emphasis on fresh fish, also moderately priced. Unquestionably, the Old Dutch Gourmet is the big attraction, and you can't beat this great deal.

Rembrandt Café is open seven days a week from noon until 1:00 AM and until 3:00 AM on Fridays and Saturdays when they feature live music after 11:00 PM. After enjoying a unique dining adventure, patrons can linger at what turns into a chic lounge in the late hours; highly recommended for excellent value, delicious food and congenial service.



The main course entails an open grill placed at your table, with an ample assortment of chicken, beef, pork and shrimp for diners to cook to their preferred degree of doneness. They are served with three tasty sauces, creamy garlic, a mildly spicy and slightly sweet Thai Chili Sauce, and Indonesian soy that is quite different to what most may be accustomed, but an integral part of Dutch cooking.

We found the meats and poultry exceptionally tender and tasty, and the cooking method is extremely healthy and low fat. Hans informed



LENS (AFP) : People queue to visit the Louvre Museum on the first day of its opening to the public on December 4, 2012 in Lens, northern France. The Louvre museum opened a new satellite branch among the slag heaps of a former mining town Tuesday in a bid to bring high culture and visitors to one of France's poorest areas. Greeted by a group of former miners in overalls and hardhats, President Francois Hollande inaugurated the Japanese-designed glass and polished-aluminium branch of the Louvre in the northern city of Lens. The 150 million euro (\$196 million) project was 60 percent financed by regional authorities in the Nord-Pas-De-Calais region, on the English Channel and the border with Belgium.



Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



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The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile

SPORTS

Figure-skating: Top skaters clash in ISU Grand Prix finals



MOSCOW (AFP) - The world's top figure skaters are set to battle for the ISU Grand Prix series finals titles at the venue which will host the figure-skating events at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The finals will get underway on Friday at the newly-built 12,000 capacity Iceberg Skating Palace in the games' host city Sochi, on the Black Sea coast.

The competition, the first international event to be held at the arena, starts with the short programmes on Friday with the free skating finals scheduled for Saturday.

Reigning world champion Patrick Chan of Canada, who is hoping to earn his third consecutive world title in London, Ontario, next March, looks to be a strong favourite in the men's section of the event.

However, the 21-year-old Toronto resident will have to battle hard against four Japanese rivals - world's bronze medallist Yuzuru Hanyu, this season's NHK Trophy winner, the 2011 world championships' runner-up Takahiko Kozuka, who won Skate America, Tatsuki Machida, Cup of China winner and Daisuke Takahashi.

Russian fans will miss Yevgeny Plushenko who is sitting out the Grand Prix series, but many still hope will bring Russia Olympic glory in Sochi.

Spain's Javier Fernandez, who finished first at Skate Canada this season, also grabbed a place among this

season's six-leg Grand Prix series' top six skaters.

In the women's section of the event, former two-time world champion and Olympic silver medallist Mao Asada, who won the Cup of China and the NHK Trophy this year, is ready to storm her way back to the top after two unimpressive seasons.

Compatriot Akiko Suzuki, the world bronze medallist, will also battle for the title against the US reigning champion Ashley Wagner, who won the Skate America and Trophée Bompard titles and is set to put the United States back on top of the podium.

European championship silver medallist Kiira Korpi, who won the Russian Cup earlier this year and 15-year-old Russian prodigy Elizaveta Tuktamysheva, winner of the youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria, are also hoping to perform well in Sochi.

The pairs title will be up for grabs as four-time world champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany failed to earn a place in the finals after they withdrew from participation in the Trophée Bompard because Savchenko had a sinus infection.

Russian pair Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov look strong favourites in the pairs section at their home ice after winning titles at Skate America and the Russian Cup this season.

Compatriots Yuko Kavaguti and Alexander Smirnov, who won the Trophée Bompard

and finished runners-up at the Cup of China, also have realistic chances of mounting the podium.

However, Chinese Olympic silver medallists Pang Qing and Tong Jian, who won the Cup of China and took second spot at Skate America, have also set their sights on top place at the Sochi finals.



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Football: Eritrean football team seeks asylum in Uganda

KAMPALA (AFP) - The "missing" Eritrean national football team has applied for asylum in Uganda rather than return home, officials said.

"The 18 members have told us their country is not safe for them once they return and they want political asylum," Uganda's junior minister for refugees Musa Ewewu told AFP.

"They are in the hands of the Ugandan government and

United Nations and we have given them protection," he added.

Ugandan police were alerted on Monday when the team members disappeared after losing to Rwanda 2-0 in a regional tournament, according to the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA).

"We have instructed police to call off the search for them because these people are not a

threat to Uganda, they say they want protection," Ewewu said.

If the players pass an eligibility test, they will be given refugee status, he added.

In 2007, six national players sought asylum in Angola after a game there, while in 2009, 12 Eritrean national football players sought asylum after a game in Kenya.

Last year, 13 members of Eritrea's Red Sea football club sought asylum in Tanzania.



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Olympics: 2004 Games quartet stripped of medals: IOC

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Four medallists from the 2004 Olympic Games were officially stripped of their medals on Wednesday by the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC took the decision after new analysis of their dope tests taken at the Athens Games revealed traces of steroids.

Ukraine's Yuri Belonog was stripped of his shot put gold medal, Belarus' Ivan Tikhon of his silver in the hammer, and Irina Yatchenko of Belarus and Russian Svetlana Krivolyova lost their bronze medals in the women's discus and shot put respectively.

It is the second Olympic medal Tikhon has been

stripped of, having had his bronze from the 2008 Games taken away also for a doping offence.

There is a fifth medallist from the 2004 Games who is at risk of being disqualified, but whose name will be revealed later by the IOC because of a delay in the procedure of the athlete's test.

Since the Athens Games all dope tests taken at the Olympics have been stored in a large deep freeze in the basement of the anti-doping laboratory in Lausanne for a duration of eight years.

The IOC had asked the laboratory to reanalyse 105 tests taken at the Games in Athens, which holds the unwanted record for the most failed dope tests in the Olympic history.

Football: Casillas eyes bowing out at next World Cup

MADRID (AFP) - Several of Spain's golden generation of footballers will bring down the curtain on their international careers after the 2014 World Cup, veteran goalkeeper Iker Casillas said on Wednesday.

Casillas, 31, winner of the World Cup and two European Championships, added it would be time for the younger generation to take up the baton.

"A lot of us will retire from the national side after the World Cup," said Casillas. "The younger generation will replace us. It is why winning the World Cup again would be a wonderful way to bow out."

Casillas, though, said he had every intention of playing on with Real Madrid until his present contract finishes in 2017.

Football: Champions League holders Chelsea out despite rout

LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea became the first Champions League holders to go out in the group phase despite a resounding 6-1 win at home to FC Nordsjaelland in their final Group E game on Wednesday.

Chelsea finished their group campaign with 10 points -- level with Shakhtar, but below the Ukrainian champions by virtue of an inferior head-to-head record.

The result gave interim coach Rafael Benitez his first win in four games at the Stamford Bridge helm, but Chelsea's only hope of securing silverware in Europe for a second successive season now lies in the Europa League.

The celebrations, though, were subdued -- 200 days on

from their historic triumph on penalties against Bayern Munich in last season's final, this was a very different kind of Chelsea victory.

While in Madrid there was no record-equalling goal for Lionel Messi on Wednesday as the Argentine ace went off injured in Barcelona's Champions League clash with Benfica.

Messi has scored 84 goals in matches so far this year, one short of the record set by German player Gerd Mueller

in 1972.

But the 25-year-old was unable to convert any of his chances and then went down injured in the 85th minute of the 0-0 draw at the Nou Camp.

Messi collided with Benfica goalkeeper Artur in the penalty box, but rode the initial challenge to fire off a looping shot before slumping to the floor.

He received treatment on the pitch before being carted off.



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi leaves the pitch on a stretcher after being injured during the UEFA Champions League football match FC Barcelona vs SL Benfica

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NBA: Smith shines as Rockets rally to beat Lakers, Lowly Wizards stun Heat

HOUSTON (AFP) - Greg Smith scored 17 of his career-high 21 points in the second half Tuesday to help ignite a Houston rally that shot the Rockets to a 107-105 NBA victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Smith made 7-of-8 shots from the field and grabbed nine rebounds as the Rockets notched their fifth victory in six games.

Toney Douglas scored 22 points off the bench to help the Rockets overcome a poor shooting night from James Harden -- not to mention 39 points from Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant.

Harden finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds, but made just 3-of-19 from the field.

Dwight Howard scored 16 points with 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who led by 13 in the fourth quarter but lost for the third time in their last four games.

As in a 113-103 loss to Orlando on Sunday, Howard had his troubles at the free throw

line, but Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said he didn't consider taking Howard out in the fourth quarter as the Rockets were closing in -- and repeatedly fouling Howard to send him to the line.

Despite the breakdowns -- the Lakers had 19 turnovers and surrendered 21 offensive rebounds -- D'Antoni insisted the Lakers weren't far from where they need to be to win.

The Washington Wizards posted just their second win of the NBA season Tuesday, overcoming a triple-double by Miami's LeBron James to stun the reigning champion Heat 105-101.

Jordan Crawford scored 22 points and Kevin Seraphin scored 16 points with 10 rebounds as the Wizards notched their third straight victory over the Heat -- a streak dating back to late last season.

A.J. Price added 14 points and Martell Webster scored 13 off the bench for the Wizards, who went into the contest with a league-worst 1-13 record.

They started the season

with 12 straight defeats before posting a two-point win over Portland last week.

James led all scorers with 26 points and also contributed 13 rebounds and 11 assists. However, he missed two three-point attempts late in the fourth quarter.

The Heat never led after the first quarter and saw their six-game winning streak end.

Dwyane Wade finished with 24 points in defeat for Miami, with Chris Bosh putting up 20 points and 12 rebounds.

The Heat, trailing by as many as 12 points in the third period, began to whittle the deficit, and Bosh's layup with 6:48 left to play knotted the score at 88-88.

The Wizards, however, held on. Webster's three-pointer made it 93-89 with six minutes remaining.

After James's three-point attempt failed, Crawford made one of two from the free throw line to give Washington a 102-99 lead with 10.3 seconds left.

Crawford made two more



A triple-double (26 points, 13 rebounds, 11 assists) by LeBron James wasn't enough to finish off Trevor Ariza and the Wizards.

free throws to give Washington a three-point lead, 104-101. James was off-target again with a three-pointer in the waning seconds that would have forced overtime.

Wizards coach Randy Wittman was delighted that his players were able to come through against a high-profile opponent, that had the backing of many in the crowd.

The win took a bit of the sting out of Wittman's pre-

game revelation that he doesn't know when the Wizards' top player, 2010 number one overall draft pick John Wall, will return.

Wall has yet to take part in a practice this season because of a stress injury to his left knee cap.

Crawford, however, cautioned that the Wizards still have work to do to turn around their season.